



Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
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February 4, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: California Telehealth Network
HCP 17211 Denial of Eligibility for 29 Entities

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This letter supports the appeal by the California Telehealth Network (CTN) of the denial of 29 healthcare provider sites to participate in the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF). The Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) urgently requests that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reverse this decision to allow non-rural healthcare providers that are not Federally Qualified Health Centers or HRSA designated Community Health Centers to participate consistent with the previous practices implemented under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP). The DMHC supports the participation of these healthcare providers as an integral part of the emerging broadband enabled healthcare delivery system CTN provides in the State of California.

The DMHC strongly supports the CTN consortium and understands the importance of the participation of rural and non-rural healthcare providers in the delivery of broadband enabled healthcare services. Non-rural healthcare organizations are vital to the sustainability and provision of specialty care and other vital resources to the rural communities of California.

As the regulator of health plans in California, CTN connections are important to increase the availability of telehealth services in the state. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and the increase in the number of enrollees, it is important to have telehealth available as a component of the healthcare delivery system.

We strongly urge the FCC to move quickly to reinstate the eligibility of these healthcare providers consistent with previous RHCPP practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Baldwin", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Baldwin,
Deputy Director, Plan and Provider Relations
Department of Managed Health Care